

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

By this Amendment, Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to reduce the issues. Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, and 5 are pending for reconsideration, with Claims 1 and 5 being independent.

Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jurik et al. (USP 6,371,519). Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jurik et al. in view of Camp et al. (US Publication 2005/0029795). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In contrast to Applicant's invention and to the Office's assertion in the outstanding rejections, Jurik et al. does not teach a telescopically adjustable steering column. Rather, Jurik merely teaches a collapsible steering column in which a shaft housing 14 is movable toward the front of the vehicle during a frontal crash event. Jurik's friction ring 56 evidently serves to enable energy absorption during collapsing movement. But it does not serve as a stopper to regulate telescopic adjustment. Accordingly, the rejection based on Jurik et al. is untenable and should be withdrawn.

The Camp et al. publication was not applied against the independent claims, nor is it seen to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Jurik et al. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Claims 1, 2, and 5 distinguish patentably from the applied references.

Claims 6-13 have been added to provide more comprehensive protection for certain aspects of the invention. Claims 6-13, which depend from Claims 1 and 5, are also believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claims 1 and 5, as well as due to the additional subject matter contained therein.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application now be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-10232) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any

extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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